

Serial No. **10/773,572**
Amdt. dated October 2, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2008

Docket No. **K-0608**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 5, 10, and 13-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, and 18 are amended, and claim 19 is added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested

The Office Action objected to claim 1 for informalities. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending the claims. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 13 and 18 have been amended to address the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stearns. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a piston pin attached to one end of the connecting rod, wherein a clearance is provided between an inside surface of the one end of the connecting rod and an outside surface of the piston pin, and at least one oil passage configured to connect the clearance with a piston chamber, wherein the at least one oil passage is configured to allow lubricating oil to escape from the clearance into the piston chamber, and wherein the at least one oil passage is provided one of extending along a first inside surface of

the piston with which the one end of the connecting rod is in contact, extending along an outer surface of the one end of the connecting rod, or extending through the one end of the connecting rod. Stearns fails to disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, the Examiner corresponds element 13 of Stearns to the claimed clearance. However, element 13 is disclosed by Stearns as merely an annular oil groove formed in the bearing material. See col. 2, lines 5-10 of Stearns. Stearns teaches in these lines that “[t]he flange 10 and band 11 or the bore therein are lined with a suitable bearing material 12 which is provided within an annular oil groove 13 which joins aligned apertures 14 and 15 provided in the bearing material 12 and the flange portion respectively. Thus, Stearns does not disclose or suggest the claimed clearance provided between an inside surface of the one end of the connection rod and an outside surface of the piston pin, in particular, in combination with the claimed at least one oil passage.

Further, the Examiner corresponds element 26 to the claimed at least one oil passage. Element 26 is disclosed by Stearns as apertures formed in the bosses 4. See col. 2, lines 72-75 of Stearns. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that apertures 26 allow lubrication oil to escape from annular oil groove 13 into a piston chamber. Further, Stearns does not disclose or suggest wherein the at least one oil passage is provided one of extending along a first inside surface of the piston with which the one end of the connecting rod is in contact, extending along

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an outer surface of the one end of the connecting rod, or extending through the one end of the connecting rod.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Stearns should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 5, and 10 are allowable over Stearns at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: October 2, 2008

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